**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

Complete the following, from Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 44 –

1. Define an online community?  
   An online community is an online space where people can share words and ideas using web-based technology.

**Types of online communities:**

**Social networks and communities**

1. **Describe the nature of a social networking site.**A social networking site is a website that encourages members of its online community to share their interests, stories, thoughts, photos and videos with other members of the community.
2. **List examples of these sites.**-Facebook  
   -RoosterTeeth-Twitter  
   -MySpace  
   -Blogs  
   -Bebo  
   -Tribe  
   -Msn
3. **What is the primary purpose of social networking sites.**The main purpose of a social networking site is to interact with friends, colleagues and people who share similar interests.
4. **Is there governance over these sites and do they add “new” content to the internet?**There is no real governance over these sites although most will have policies which discourage or disallow the posting of illegal content.

**Personal Profile Sites**

1. **Describe the nature of personal profile sites.**Personal profile sites are sites that allow users to create a profile page that lists friends and information about themselves. You can have pictures of yourself (i.e. a display picture) or you can also have widgets that display your interests or likes.
2. **As a social networking tool what does Facebook enable users to do?**Facebook allows users to televise their statuses, collaborate on events, share knowledge and links to websites of interests, update pictures and comment on other peoples pages.
3. **What type of tool is twitter?**Twitter is known as a micro-blog that allows users to write a maximum of 140 words. It is called micro-blogging because it is similar to a blog in that its main use is for users to make a running commentary of their day. The micro is used simply because it’s blogging on a smaller scale.
4. **What has been the strengths & weaknesses of twitter?**Twitter is useful when large events occur such as elections and natural disasters. The problem with Twitter is that because there is no moderation and there is social environment, most posts are simply unimportant, pointless babble.
5. **What do social networking tools, such as Flicker and YouTube allow users to do?**Sites such as Flicker and YouTube concentrate on uploading data, whether it is in the case of flicker where the data is in the form of photos or YouTube where it is in the form of videos, that can then be shared within the large world-wide community, all users on YouTube can view the videos, whereas on flicker you can choose for it to be publicised or not.

**Issue:**

1. **How do social networking sites pose a legal and ethical minefield for employers?**Today many employers around the world are setting up fake facebook accounts known as ‘ghosts’ and using them to spy on prospective employees or in the case of a Sydney employer, to search for evidence that a employee was exaggerating their personal injury claim. Using a social network in a workplace takes out the point of having offices to work in...

**Professional or work-based communities, p 49**

1. **Describe the characteristics of professional or work-based communities.**Professional communities generally have a very clear carter. Websites, discussion areas and mailing lists are set up with a clear purpose and often the community has rules on what and how information can be shared. Professional communities are generally established to facilitate learning in a particular industry and discussion is kept strictly ‘on topic’. To keep general chit chat away from serious discussion spaces, many of these communities have set up ‘off-topic’ areas.
2. **How does membership differ in these communities to social networking sites?**Memberships to these communities are often closed, as the site is owned by a professional association or by a workplace. The usernames in these communities are often the user’s real name, as they are trying to build up their professional standing.
3. **How does the content differ from social networking sites?**Professional and work-based communities generally will have more specific and clearer content than that of a typical social networking site. The information on a work-based community will be ‘on topic’ and will reflect on the particular profession.

**Project and interest based communities**

1. **List the characteristics of these communities.**Generally:  
   - are open to the public  
   -have free membership  
   -encourage the exchange of ideas
2. **List an e.g. of an internet based community.**  
   -Many ‘BlogSpot’ sites.  
   -Car clubs  
   -Habbo
3. Visit the project based community, <http://handmadehelpsout.blogspot.com/> as an e.g. of one of these sites.